

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FR, GE
SUBJ: FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS: AXEN VISIT TO PARIS

REF: PARIS 12240

1. GDR POLITBUREAU MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE LOWER
HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE'S CHAMBER, HERMAN AXEN, WAS IN PARIS
MAY 2-6 WITH A GROUP OF EIGHT COLLEAGUES AT INVITATION
OF HIS FRENCH COUNTERPART AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
MAURICE COUVE DE MURVILLE.

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2. GIVEN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, AXEN RECEIVED VERY
COURTEOUS RECEPTION. IN ADDITION TO DINNER BY COUVE,
TALKS WITH EDGAR FAURE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AND ALAIN POHER, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AS
WELL AS AN APPEARANCE IN THE ASSEMBLY'S GALLERIES,
AXEN ALSO MET WITH JACQUES CHIRAC AND PRESIDENT OF
THE PS GROUP IN THE ASSEMBLY GASTON DEFERRE.

3. MORE IMPORTANTLY, AXEN WAS RECEIVED BY DE GUIRINGAUD A MEETING WHICH PRODUCED DIVERGENT PRESS COMMENTS. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL FRENCH SOURCE, BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING DE GUIRINGAUD'S PROPOSED VISIT TO THE GDR. THE FRENCH SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT VISIT CONTINUES TO BE FORESEEN IN PRINCIPLE, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT NO DATE WAS SET. SPOKESMAN FURTHER STRESSED THAT DE GUIRINGAUD RECALLED TO AXEN FRANCE'S POSITION ON BERLIN; AND THAT HE TOLD AXEN ON CONSULAR CONVENTION, THAT THIS WAS A "THEORETICAL" QUESTION, HARDLY URGENT, SINCE EAST GERMANS CAN READILY VISIT FRANCE. IN CONTRAST, AXEN HIMSELF CALLED HIS MEETING WITH DE GUIRINGAUD "VERY OPEN, CONCRETE, FRIENDLY, AND RESPECTFUL. WE AGREED ON THE ESSENTIAL: TO REMOVE ALL OBSTACLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS."

4. BEFORE LEAVING PARIS, AXEN MADE FURTHER PRESS STATEMENT. HE DECLARED HIMSELF "PARTICULARLY SATISFIED" WITH NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH PROMINENT FRENCHMEN WHICH DEMONSTRATED "COMMON WILL" TO SEE RELATIONS DEVELOP. HE REGRETTED THAT FRANCO-GDR POLITICAL RELATIONS WERE TRAILING THOSE IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, AND COMPLAINED POINTEDLY ABOUT LENGTH OF TIME EAST GERMANS HAD TO WAIT FOR THEIR FONMIN TO BE RECEIVED HERE. "WE ALSO AWAIT 'HE CONTINUED' WITH MUCH PATIENCE THE VISIT OF THE FRENCH FONMIN WHICH WAS LONG AGO ANNOUNCED." MEETINGS BETWEEN OTHER MINISTERS WOULD ALSO BE MOST USEFUL. ON OTHER TOPICS, HE SAID THAT HIS TALK WITH PCF FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY SPOKESMAN KANAPA DEALT ONLY WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND FRANCE (:) SINCE AXEN WAS NOT LEADING A PARTY DELEGATION. AS FOR "EURO-COMMUNISM," THIS WAS NOT AN IDEA "CREATED BY MARXISM-LENINISM." MARXISM-LENINISM IS A SINGLE WORLD MOVEMENT WHICH HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO ENTRENCH ITSELF. THIS UNIVERSAL PROCESS WILL CONTINUE. "I THEREFORE DO NOT THINK, HE CONCLUDED, THAT A EURO-COMMUNISM EXISTS." (THE MEETING WITH KANAPA MUST INDEED HAVE BORNE LITTLE FRUIT:)

5. FINALLY, AXEN WAS ASKED ABOUT ZAIRE. GOZ'S "PRETEXT" FOR BREAKING RELATIONS IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. THE GDR HELPS COUNTRIES WHICH FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS."BUT THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GDR POLITICAL AND MILITARY AID, AND PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY CONFLICTS THROUGH MILITARY AID, AS GOZ CLAIMS."

6. COMMENT: WE WILL SHORTLY HAVE PLAISANT'S IMPRES-

SIONS OF QUAI REACTIONS TO VISIT, WHICH AXEN EVIDENTLY
INFLATED TO LIMIT CURRENT TRAFFIC HERE WILL BEAR.
GAMMON

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